

Hotel Williams,
Log Building No. 5
Murray Bay (west shore)
Grand Island
Alger County
Michigan

HABS No. MI-258 F

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PHOTOCOPIES

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HOTEL WILLIAMS,
LOG BUILDING No. 5

HABS No. MI-258F

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Location: Murray Bay (west shore), Grand Island, Alger County,
Michigan.

Present Owner: Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company, Ishpeming, Michigan.

Present Use: Vacant.

Significance: This building is of historical interest as one of a small
number of remaining buildings once devoted to the fur
trade.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Thought to have been constructed for the American Fur Company in 1837 or before 1840 (William F. Lawler, in Michigan History, 22: 282-283 [Summer, 1938]; The Lure of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, 1955).
2. Original and subsequent owners: Purchased by the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company in 1901. (This information is incomplete).
3. Original plans and construction: Physical evidence indicates that this building was originally a one-room rectangular structure. Alterations were made at various times: roof structure, chimney, sash, doors, flooring; porch, lean-to and clapboarding added. The exterior walls are the only remaining original portions.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: A small old log building of historical interest, considerably altered.
2. Condition of fabric: The basic structure is sound but several years of neglect have allowed considerable deterioration of the exterior.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 15'-9" by 19'-0" interior dimensions, plus lean-to addition; one story; faces east.
2. Foundations: Log sill.

3. Walls: Squared logs laid horizontally, the horizontal joints breaking at the corners. Later clapboards, now deteriorated, cover the exterior. The gable ends, of later hewn frame construction, are covered with wood shingles.
4. Porch: A small porch centered on the east wall is sheltered by a continuation of the roof. It has a board floor and two plain square columns. It is not original.
5. Chimney: The lower half of the chimney, located at the center of the north wall, is of sandstone and appears to be original. The upper half is a brick alteration.
6. Openings: Sash and door are replacements or alterations.
7. Roof: The gable roof frame of hewn timbers appears old but does not appear to be the original one. It is generally similar to those described in Log Buildings No. 1 (MI-258-C) and No. 2 (MI-258-D). The tie beams here are sawn pieces. The covering is wood shingles, later covered by composition roll roofing.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The original part of the building consists of a single room, to which has been added a room in the lean-to on the west side.
2. Flooring: The floor boarding is modern.
3. Trim: There is modern boxing around the log sill inside.
4. Hardware: There is a wrought-iron latch on the door, which is hung on two strap hinges on pintles driven into the casing. There are two stays for a bar. This hardware may possibly be old but is probably a clever modern imitation. There is a wrought-iron crane (loose) at the fireplace.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The ground slopes gently away from the water of Murray Bay. This building, along with several others, is near the shore line at the bottom of the slope, amid overgrown grass and a few trees.

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